

THE AGITATOR

A SEMI-MONTHLY ADVOCATE OF THE MODERN SCHOOL, INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM, INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

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WHOLE NO. 35

The Passing Show

The Struggle of the Age.

Fiercer and fiercer becomes the war of the fighting factions. Labor passive, as becomes the weaker, yet aggressive and insistent in its passiveness. Capital, strong, with the guns behind it that labor made and the men to handle them that labor raised. The power of labor is gradually increasing, while the brutality of the employing class is increasing in exact ratio.

The preservation of capital demands the subjugation of labor. Capitalism is founded upon the theory of a submissive working class that will labor without complaint, eat when it is given to eat and crawl into some quiet corner and die when no food is forthcoming.

This being so, it can easily be understood why all agitation that will tend to disturb the quiet of hungry workers and rouse them from their holes is being put down by the masters.

It is not the fault of the masters if there are more workers than they need. They are willing to supply coarse food for a reasonable number of meek slaves, the number necessary to supply them with all the luxuries of life. But they cannot be responsible for the surplus of slaves. Let that surplus go and hang itself. When it refuses to do so the logical thing is to club it and prod it and shoot it—get it out of the way somehow, for it has become a nuisance, a detriment to the peace and prosperity of the country.

Thus we have the San Diego free speech fight, the battle in the Grays Harbor district, Lawrence, etc.; each repeated struggle bringing forth evidence of a more protracted and deadly struggle to follow.

Peace! Don't think of peace, it is impossible. Cannons and discontent mean war. More cannons and more discontent means more war. There will be peace when the war is over.

"The Bloody Red Flag"

We labor agitators are not the only ones that sniff the perfume of the coming "unpleasantness." Alert lawyers, especially those who, through corporate influence, have been "elevated" to the U. S. plush cushioned "bench," spend some of their spare moments with their ears to the earth. C. H. Hanford, of Seattle, uttered his prophesy the other day.

The evening previous a demonstration was held in Seattle, including a parade and mass meeting, against the high-handed, murderous tactics employed by the thugs and gun men in the pay of the mill bosses of the Grays Harbor district against the slaves who refused to remain contented with their fine American slavery.

It is part of Judge Hanford's duties to admit benighted foreigners to the glorious privileges of American citizenship. On the morning in question, while charging some candidates with the profound importance of the high honors he was about to confer upon them, Hanford, with deep feeling, so the report says, unbosomed himself as follows:

"On yesterday there was a procession marching in the streets of Seattle, behind a

flag which was not the mingled colors of our nation, but only the bloody red color.

"Recently other processions have marched behind that red flag in the streets of Seattle, in which men enjoying the rights of citizenship of this country were included. Some of them were born in this country, and others have acquired the rights of citizenship by professing and swearing allegiance to the Constitution.

"It has been declared in the speeches of their orators and in public statements that those who marched behind that red flag have no more respect for this flag of the United States than they have for the flag of Russia; and that their purpose is to destroy this government.

"If these disloyal demonstrations continue the time will come when there will be a conflict between those who march behind the red flag and those who take their stand under the flag representing the law and government of this nation.

"You by the oath you take become pledged that when that time comes you will stand behind the Stars and Stripes representing the government of this nation."

"It is because we have in this country such disloyal citizens that Congress, in amending the laws under which aliens may become naturalized, has required them to denounce anarchy. In admitting new citizens we want loyal citizens, and not enemies of the government.

"These disloyal demonstrations" are going to continue, and red blooded men and women will march behind the "bloody red flag" until the evils that agitate their red blood shall be abolished.

The Milwaukee Defeat.

There were no soldiers brot from the outside, no armed thugs imported from the slums of big cities, no local police used to awe and intimidate the voters, still the Socialists lost Milwaukee. Having the city offices at its command, with all the power and prestige of these offices, having a following of almost fanatical thousands, who made a house to house canvass, having imported eloquent orators from distant cities, having a daily and weekly newspapers, having the united support of organized labor, having had two years in which to "make good," having in fact every possible advantage, and yet easily going down to defeat, proves beyond the shadow of a doubt that political socialism is the easiest mark that capitalism has to contend with.

This is the most complete and crushing defeat the political method has ever sustained. It is complete and crushing because it is a plain concrete fact. It is said everything contains the germ of its own destruction, more vulgarly, that "a calf will hang himself if you give him rope enuf." I don't mean to be vulgar nor even satirical while commenting on the fall of fellow fighters in the cause of labor, yet I cannot refrain from suggesting that in this case the axiom quoted clearly applies.

It is proverbial in labor ranks to claim victory out of defeat, but to claim two victories out of the Milwaukee defeat is verging dangerously upon the bounds of the ridicu-

lous. I quote from State Secretary E. H. Thomas' news letter:

"The Milwaukee Socialists have won two real victories in the campaign which closed at the polls yesterday. They forced the two old parties to combine in order to 'beat the Socialists,' and increased the Socialist vote by about three thousand."

That may be making the best out of a lost cause, yet to a direct actionist, or even to a common trade unionist, the "victory" of forcing the capitalists to unite against them is small victory indeed; a "victory" the unions have achieved many years ago.

The truth is that the party feels so humiliated and disheartened by this defeat and ousting from office that it grasps at even the ridiculous in an effort to save itself from utter discredit in the eyes of the workers, who are fast awakening to the pitfalls of politics.

The Miners' Strike and Politics.

The fine art of politics consists in preventing the people as long as possible from obtaining what they want, and when they have finally gotten it, to give it to them. The English politicians have proven themselves masters of the art.

For the first time in their history, the British miners made a demand they were actually in a position to enforce. The country was at their mercy. They actually had what they wanted. The minimum wage was theirs. When up rises the politicians and moves the passage of a law "giving" the miners by politics what they had attained through direct action.

Why did they do it? The answer is clear. Industrial direct action is so powerful a weapon in the workers' hands, and politics so slippery and weak, that it suits the master class to keep the toilers in ignorance of the real power of the general strike.

So, when the miners had them beaten, they ordered parliament to pass the law. Now the mine owners are obeying parliament and not the miners' union; and if the miners and other workers of England are fools they will think it is really so.

Railroad Construction Strike.

More old theories are evaporating in the light and warmth of stubborn facts. It used to be accepted as an axiom that the "floating" workers, the men who build the railroads, were impossible to organize. Seven thousand of them are organized in the I. W. W. along the Great Northern extension in British Columbia, and what is infinitely more important they are on strike, and tho quite inexperienced in this kind of warfare, are doing very well. The I. W. W. has established camps where the men are fed, and, the climate being good, sleep out in their blankets. But food costs money, and many of these new warriors in the labor struggle haven't been long on the job and have nothing but courage and determination to sustain them.

The eyes of the labor world are on these men, it being the first strike of this extent and character in the country. Assistance should be sent to C. Nelson, Box 15, Yale, B. C.

JAY FOX.

THE AGITATOR

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THE AGITATOR does not bear the union stamp because it is not printed for profit. But it is union, every letter of it. It is printed and published by unionists and their friends for the economic and political education of themselves and their fellow toilers. Much of the labor is given free. On the whole it is a work of love—the love of the idea, of a world fit for the free.

Thou hast seen a farmer's dog bark at a begger.
And the creature run from the cur: There,
There thou might'st behold the great image of
authority;—a dog's obeyed in office. King Lear.

Your attention is especially called to the article on tactics, which is the first of a series that will cover the subject thoroughly. After the question has been thusly laid before us, you and I can dig into it and make the dust fly. Before reading the article, stop a minute and reflect upon this obvious truth: The trouble with the mass of mankind is they never examine their doctrines in the light of new truth, but once having accepted them, continue, doggedly, to propound them even in the face of insurmountable fact. Gods, governments and grafters feed on this foolishness.

WHAT GOOD IS AUTHORITY?

I.

Bent over the plow and irrigating with his sweat the furrow as he turns it, the peon toils and entones one of those inexpressible and folk-songs that seem to condense and sum up all the bitterness social injustice has been accumulating for centuries in the poorman's heart. The peon toils and sings, thinking all the time of the hut where in his family is awaiting him to share its humble meal. His heart is flooded with tenderness as he muses on his wife and little ones, and, looking up to note the position of the sun and tell the hour, he perceives a light cloud of dust which grows as it approaches him. They are cavalry soldiers and they ask: "Are you Juan?" On receiving an affirmative reply they say: "Come with us. The government needs you." And away goes Juan, bound like a criminal, on the road to the city, where the barracks await him; While in the hut is left his family, to die of hunger or turn thieves and prostitutes, that it may save itself from perishing. Will Juan tell you that Authority is a good thing for the poor?

II

For three days Petro has been tramping the city eagerly, in search of work. He is a good workman; his muscles are of steel; on his face, which stamps him a child of the people, honesty shines. Vainly he tramps the city, begging employers to exploit his sturdy arms. On every side the doors were shut against him, but Petro is energetic and does not allow himself to grow discouraged. So, streaming with sweat and with the sharp teeth of hunger gnawing at his entrails, he offers and offers and offers his iron fists in the hope of finding a master who will "kindly" consent to exploit them. Crossing the city for the twentieth time he thinks of his wife and children in their poor pigsty of a shack; for they, like him, are suffering from hunger and they are about to be put out by the landlord who is not willing to wait any longer for his rent. He thinks of his little ones, and, his heart ached with grief, hastens his footsteps to find a master, a master, a master.—A policeman has noted him passing and repassing, turning to pass again and turning to pass yet again the street whereon he himself is posted to "keep public order." He takes Pedro by the collar and conducts him to the nearest police station, where he charges him with vagrancy. While Pedro suffers in the prison his family perishes of hunger, or steals or prostitutes itself to escape starvation. Will Pedro tell you that Authority is a good thing for the poor?

III

In a little hotel, the atmosphere saturated with the

smoke of coal oil and tobacco, Martin, the intelligent agitator, talks to his comrades. "It is not possible to tolerate any longer the iniquitous exploitation to which we are subjected," says Martin, tossing back his fine, leonine mane. "We work twelve, fourteen and even sixteen hours for a few cents; they fine us on every pretext to lessen still farther our starvation wages; they humiliate us by forbidding us to shelter in our miserable lodgings our friends, our relatives or whom we please; they prohibit the reading of papers likely to awaken and educate us. Let us not put up with any more humiliations, comrades. Let us declare a strike and ask for an increase of wages a shortening of the hours of labor, that they may learn to respect the guarantees the Constitution makes us. 'A salvo of applause greets the orator's words as it is voted to strike. But, next morning the workers learn that Martin was arrested on returning home, and that warrants are out against the most intelligent among them. The panic spreads and the mass of workingmen become resigned and returns to breaking its back and being subjected to humiliations. Will Martin tell you that Authority is a good thing for the poor?"

IV

Before daybreak Epifania has been afoot, filling her big basket carefully with cabbages, lettuce, green chilis, and onions, gathered in her little garden. With her burden on her back she reaches the city market, to realize on her humble merchandise and buy the medicine needed for her aged father and the bread of which her brothers stand in want. Before she has sold a couple of bunches of onions the tax-gatherer appears, demanding, in the name of the government, the money necessary to pay ministers, deputies, senators, judges, soldiers, policemen, governors, sheriffs and jailers. Epifania is not able to pay and her little stock is seized by the government, since neither prayers nor arguments can melt the functionary's heart. Will Epifania tell you that Authority is a good thing for the poor?

V

What, then, is the use of Authority? It serves to inculcate respect for the law, which, written by the rich and by educated men in the service of the rich, has for its object the guaranteeing them tranquil possession of their riches and the exploitation of human labor. In other words, Authority is the gendarme of Capital and the gendarme is not paid by Capital but by the poor.

To have done with Authority we must first have done with Capital. Let us take possession of the land, of the machinery of production and of the means of transportation. Let us organize production and consumption communally, bringing it about that all shall be the property of all. Then it will be necessary to pay officials to guard a capital that is locked in a few hands, for every man and every woman will be at once a producer and a guardian of the social wealth.

Mexicans, your future is in your own hands, when, thanks to popular rebellion, Authority has lost its power, is the opportune moment to lay hands on the law and rend it into pieces; to lay hands on private property and make it the property of all—of each and every one of the human beings of whom is composed the Republic of Mexico.

Let us not permit, therefore, the formation of a powerful government. To the work of expropriation, therefore, without delay. And if, unhappily, some other individual should climb to the Presidency of the Republic, let us war against him and his followers, to prevent him from becoming strong; continuing meanwhile the work of expropriation.

(Ricardo Flores Magon, in "Regeneracion" of March 30, 1912. Translated from the Spanish by Wm. C. Owen editor, English section.)

SPECIAL FROM AUSTRALIA

Dear Comrade: I Suppose you have read of the General Strike in Brisbane, which has just been declared off. While the unionists gained the right to wear a badge, when on duty, the employers are compelling them to sign an agreement to give 14 days notice before striking again. The workers have learned thru experience that government uses violence to defend exploitation.

The State Premier appealed to the Federal Prime Minister to send the Federal Troops to Brisbane. The request was refused as it would have destroyed the Political Labor Party absolutely. Special constables were immediately enrolled, armed with swords and revolvers, mounted as well as foot police lined across the streets to prohibit the unionists holding a procession. Unfortunately the police succeeded, as the unionists went unarmed.

This grave mistake was the outcome of depending upon leaders who cowed when boldness was demanded. Bowman, the leader of the Labor Party appealed to the workers to go home as the police had intimated they would hold him responsible for anything that happened

Needless to say he was suddenly taken sick and did not appear in public until the strike was finished.

The Labor Politicians thruout Australia have displayed deplorable bitterness against the strikers. The minister of Labor, Mr. Griffiths, stated they should be treated as industrial outlaws. King O. Mally a Federal Cabinet Minister endorsed the above, while the Federal Attorney General stated, strikes were crimes. The President of the Sydney Trades Council remarked he had no sympathy with strikes. The Transport Workers of New South Wales were requested to drop tools, but failed, stating the strike was illogical. Also the New Gaste miners refused to strike. This is the satisfaction the workers get by returning workingman to fat jobs in Parliament.

There was a splendid chance to gain a grand victory, which might have commenced the Social Revolution. As the Australian workers form the militia and the standing army is of little importance. They could have seized supplies and declared for Equality. But the leaders cowed and the strikers submitted to have their skulls cracked by the police, when they could easily have annihilated them. The labor politicians once again proved themselves traitors, upholding authority, which was anxious to kill the strikers.

The lesson taught the workers self preservation, Direct Action and the General Strike. Since the strike I have made many converts to Anarchy and have considerably increased my list of Anarchist Literature.

Yours Fraternally,

Carlton, Victoria.

J. W. Fleming.

REVOLUTIONARY TACTICS

I.

The gathering of Socialist labor leaders and politicians, who founded the I. W. W. and outlined its policies and structure, unconsciously pursued a curious though not unnatural method of reasoning by analogy in their undertaking.

Previously, when establishing their political party, following the universal custom of Socialists, they had scathingly criticised and condemned all existing political parties as being by nature non-revolutionary, and organized their party entirely independent of and opposed to all others. When they felt the necessity for an economic "wing" to their movement they instinctively pursued the same course of reasoning and tactics. They violently criticised and utterly condemned the existing conservative labor unions and established the I. W. W. as an independent labor movement.

They reasoned, in effect, though perhaps without realizing it, as follows:

"The corrupt old parties don't represent the interests of the Working Class on the political field. We organized a new party and it is succeeding. The rotten craft unions don't represent the interests of the Working Class on the economic field. Therefore, let's organize a new revolutionary union to replace them. It also will succeed."

The result of this sub-conscious analogic lumping together of labor union and political party organization problems was that the special problems ever present in the organization of dual labor unions were entirely neglected and the I. W. W. organized "willy nilly" on the gratuitous assumption that if a dual political party can be made a success so can a dual labor union.*

But as time has gone on the political party has had a continued growth while the I. W. W., in spite of a large and growing revolutionary sentiment, has vegetated, struggling with problems and difficulties entirely absent in the political party's experience. It is, therefore, high time that the problems facing the I. W. W. be given a long needed and more thorough examination than the haphazard one accorded them at the outset, when they were all "settled" without even being considered.

To contribute to this long delayed investigation will be the purpose of this series of articles.

A Dual Program

In its attempt to organize the American proletariat on a revolutionary basis, the I. W. W. is performing two distinct and separate functions with the one organization. It has a double program: First, it is serving as a propaganda league to propagate the ideas of industrial unionism; second, it is functioning as a labor union wherever possible and trying to build up an entirely new labor movement.

We have been so accustomed to see these two programs associated together, that we have not heretofore even remarked them as being two different entities. Proof of their individuality is seen,

AROUSE YE WORKERS

Workingmen arise! the night departeth
Arise! the day draws near
Of old, foretold, by prophet, poet;
Vision of sage and seer.
Arise! the first rays rend the blackness
In which ye long have lain;
Rouse ye, my brothers, and cast from you
The many-centuried chain.

Rouse ye! for woes of weakly women;
For crippled children crying;
For all the many and mute millions
In gross darkness dying.
For the harlot, for the drunkard;
For the outcast, the thief;
For those "poor heirs of all ages"
Who are heirs to nought but grief.
For the starving—yea, for the satiate;
For the uncouth, the uncouth;
For all fair fields of earth befooled,
Rouse ye! stand for the truth,
'Gainst forms and forces which are blighting:
And working ruin and ruth;
Because of wrongs which wait for righting,
Rise and strike for the truth.

—JOSEPH LEE.

however, in that in many countries syndicalist propaganda leagues exist which do not function as labor unions. The syndicalist propaganda league of England is an example. On the other hand, innumerable labor organizations exist, which are not functioning as propaganda leagues.

In France, where the labor movement is controlled by direct action revolutionists, this quality of functions is also clearly seen. The direct actionists have established magazines and papers (one of them a daily) to propagate their ideas, especially anti-parliamentarism, it being recognized that neither the labor unions nor their official papers can be used for this purpose, if disastrous internal dissensions are to be avoided. Violations of this principle always provoke violent quarrels between the direct actionists and politicians in the unions.

In the I. W. W. these two functions of labor organization and propaganda league are combined—thanks to the farseeing (sic) judgment of the politician founders of the I. W. W. They thought that if a political party could be built around a principle, so could a labor union and they constructed the I. W. W. accordingly.

Since then the I. W. W. has presented its two programs of industrial unionism and dual labor unionism to the working class. The responses to these programs have been, or rather should be, instructive. They have certainly been very different. In fact, one program has been welcomed and the other repudiated. The one is a success and the other a failure.

The Successful Program.

The propagation during the past seven years of the industrial union idea—in the sense at least of the necessity for much broader forms and more militant types of labor organizations than those now existing, if not in the exact sense of the I. W. W. charted anti-political One Big Union with an all powerful G. E. B. at the top and an obedient rank and file at the bottom—may be fairly said to have been a success. Workers everywhere are imbued with it. Only the most reactionary or ignorant workers are opposed to it. Insistent demands are being made on all sides in all kinds of unions for the remodeling of the labor movement, more in accord with industrial union principles.

The I. W. W., for some time after its founding, had a monopoly in this propagation of industrial unionism. Indeed, to say "Industrial Unionism" was to say "I. W. W." But in the course of time the I. W. W. has lost this monopoly. (This has been caused principally by its universal dual organization and anti-political attitude.) Today it is perhaps only a minor factor in the propagation of industrial unionism. At first sight this statement may seem exaggerated, but when one considers that the whole radical wing of the Socialist party (represented by the International Socialist Review, Revolt, etc.) have taken the propaganda as their own and are carrying it on independent of the I. W. W.; that dozens of other Socialist and trades union papers are doing the same; that at its last convention, the U. M. W. of A. endorsed industrial unionism

and instructed its officers to attend as many trade union conventions as possible in order to spread the industrial union propaganda; that numerous papers, such as The Coal Digger, The 3-Hour Day, Toledo Union Leader, controlled by direct actionists, are carrying on an active industrial unionism campaign outside of the I. W. W. and the other multiple signs of widespread non-I. W. W. propagation of industrial unionism, the statement takes on at least an appearance of strong probability.

The important fact is, however, that the propaganda program of the I. W. W. IN ITS BROAD outlines at least has been a success, so much so, in fact, that it has very largely run away from the I. W. W.

The Unsuccessful Program

But let us turn to the other program of the I. W. W., viz.: the building of a new labor movement, and see how it has fared. The answer is readily apparent. It is a failure. In spite of the great and rapidly growing sentiment in favor of industrial unionism, the I. W. W. has less members now than at its inception seven years ago.

Very many superficial reasons are urged in explanation of this condition and many rosy prophecies of the future made. But they don't do away with the all important fact that the workers have failed to respond to the I. W. W.'s dual organization program.

And this is true in spite of the I. W. W.'s recent large increase of membership in the textile industry. These new members were gained as a result of the great Lawrence strike, but this by no means signifies that the new membership is a permanent one. We have time and again in the past had large groups of workers organized, only to have them desert the organization as the W. F. of M., or disintegrate, as the McKee's Rocks organization, in response to influences still at work in the I. W. W.

The failure of the dual labor organization program of the I. W. W. means the failure of the I. W. W. itself, as above all it aims to be the labor movement, its propaganda program being only incidental to this end.

In the next article of this series, some of the causes of this failure will be pointed out.

W. Z. FOSTER.

* At the first convention of the I. W. W. (see minutes) the debates on the attitude of the I. W. W. towards the already existing craft unions consisted simply of so many "roasts" of these unions. The problems presented by them was not even discussed, the men forming the convention having determined beforehand—and by the mode of reasoning above indicated—to form a new labor movement.

MAY 1st AND A SHORTER WORK DAY.

That eventful day, the first of May, is approaching.

Eventful because the radical workers of all countries have stood united on that day, in great demonstrations, demanding the eight-hour day. It is true that those workers were (and are as yet to a great extent) led by politicians, or would-be saviors, who delivered eloquent orations, and fed the slaves upon munificent promises, but that does not alter the fact that the workers demonstrated for shorter hours and better living conditions. But the workers the world over are more and more losing faith in leaders and saviors of all kinds, and are slowly but surely awakening to a realization of their own power as a class.

In all capitalist countries syndicalism, or class unionism—the one big union idea—is rapidly pushing itself to the front. Strikes are becoming larger and larger, and the antagonism between the masters and the slaves is growing more and more intense. The slaves are losing their respect for parasitical life and property, and are resorting to direct action and sabotage.

In view of the tremendous struggles raging today between the slaves of the workshops and the masters of the bread, it is to be expected that the coming May Day will go down in history, with more real working class significance than any May Day preceding it.

It is true that very few American workers have so far taken part in those international May Day demonstrations. While the workers of the world were marching to the tune of revolutionary music on the 1st of May, demanding a shorter work day, the American workers were sleeping. They

marched, yes, behind their master's automobiles and horses on a so-called labor day, handed down to them by a capitalist president. But on May Day they were sleeping soundly. They were sleeping because they had been lulled to sleep by labor fakers and politicians.

Are we going to sleep for good, or had we not better awaken from our age-long slumber and stand erect in a universal demonstration for a shorter work day?

Let us reaffirm our demand for a general eight-hour work day, only as a step in our onward march to our goal: the abolition of wage slavery.

Let direct action follow our demands, whatever our demands may be.

Yours for class solidarity,

E. S. NELSON,

THE EDITOR'S DEFENCE

The Editor of this paper has been convicted on the charge of "encouraging disrespect for the law". If this verdict is allowed to stand every radical paper in the State will be at the absolute mercy of the prosecutors, and may be thrown into jail at any moment.

The interest of free speech demands that this case be appealed; and we urge that you subscribe to this fund.

The Free Speech League:

NATHAN LEVIN, Treas. Home, Lakebay, Wash.

THE AGITATORS AT WORK

The Seattle Agitator Club gave birth to a child the 2nd week of its existence; and after six weeks of the most strenuous work I have ever seen of read about. The child is now five times larger and stronger than the mother and has outgrown its first home.

The child is a most precious youngster showing signs of strength, wisdom and virility seldom displayed by grown ups. In fact it has already duplicated the stunt credited to Jesus the boy in the temple before the wise men having confounded the wise men of the A. F. of L. as well as the Merchants and Manufacturers Assn. of Seattle.

Jack Solomon, Beckie Beck and a few other former Chicago comrades that it about time that the Tailors of Seattle were organized in One Big Union—in a union that would do something. They got busy using The Agitator Club as headquarters and to-day the Clothing Workers Union No. 194 I. W. W. is 103 strong, have won five strikes, in some of them having to whip the A. F. of L. as well as the stubborn bosses.

Enthusiasm is at a high pitch, over a hundred dollars has been raised for the Lawrence Strike and meetings are being held every day in our club room.

This Wednesday eve. we are going to have an Agitator meeting in our new and larger club room, 415 Pacific Block. The subject of the eve. will be "Ways and means of increasing the circulation of The Agitator"

Fellow Worker! Enclosed find money order for \$3; Place same to our credit. Send a bundle order of 50 per issue to begin with. Yours for the goods,
Nelson B. C. J. W. Johnstone, sec. I. W. W.

Fellow Worker! The Agitator at hand. Enclosed find a M. O. for ten dollars to be placed to our account; and keep sending The Agitator, 50 of each issue.
Yours in Revolt;
Yale, B. C. E. Nelson, sec. I. W. W.

Dear Comrade! Please find enclosed 50 cents sub. for six months. I have received several copies of your splendid little revolutionary paper and like the ring of it (truly proletarian) and I wish that I could do more.
Yours for our class victory,
Palo Alto, Cal. Jennie Arnett

FOR LOS ANGELES

On Saturday evening, April 27th, a "Hobo" Ball will be held in the Labor Temple. Profits will be used to fight for free speech in the South and free press in the North. Put on your rags and go.

RECEIPTS

Seattle Agitator Club, Local 327-2 I. W. W. each \$10; Quinn, \$5; I. W. Nelson B. C. \$3; Gabrielson, Frank, Lehan, Skalski, each \$1; Hill, 75c. Wilhite, Turner, Lutzky, each 60c. Arnett, Local 56 I. W. W., each 50c. Brinnell, 35c. Summers, 30c. Watts, Whitney, each 25c.

Subscribe for THE AGITATOR

Around the World

Washington, D. C., has a "labor paper," "The Trade Unionist," that sells editorial boosts to politicians at \$35 a boost. "The National Socialist" of April 6th exposes the graft by printing photographic reproduction of editorial sent to Congressman Hartman of Pennsylvania for his endorsement and check for \$35. For some reason he declined the offer to be transformed into "a friend of labor" at so small a price. For, in addition to the boost, he would have gotten 500 copies of the "Trade Unionist" containing it for distribution among his trade union constituents.

Boston, April 9.—Suffragette leaders here are in thorough accord with the plan of their English sisters to wage civil war if man refuses to recognize woman as his equal. Dr. Elizabeth Shapleigh, a Boston University graduate, says: "After women get a little political power into their hands I shouldn't be surprised if they abolished a few men. There are too many men in the world anyway. As a student of biology I can say that we could get along with a very few men. They are not nearly so important as they think they are."

A bill has been introduced in congress "to promote a patriotic spirit among the citizens and youth of the United States and for the encouragement of rifle practice." According to this bill the Boy Scouts, school boys and others who receive the approval of the war office may secure rifles and ammunition from the government without cost. "Patriotism" is growing more and more dear to the hearts of the capitalists as their piles enlarge and poverty and discontent increases.

The deportation of aliens who have been admitted into America and who conspire for the overthrow of any government recognized by the United States is proposed in an amendment which Senator Root of New York has offered to the immigration bill now pending in the senate. The amendment is aimed chiefly at the heads of the Mexican juntas and backed by the czar of Russia, who is after a few thousand rebels.

An appeal for funds has been issued by the strikers on the Illinois Central and Harriman lines. The hope is expressed that the men working in repair and construction departments of other railroads will contribute one day's pay a month in order that the fight may be continued. About 30,000 men are involved in this strike.

The wages per member of the International Typographical Union for 1911 was \$974.13. This is probably the highest average maintained by any labor organization in the world whose members are employed in mechanical industry. During the year this union secured increases in wages amounting to \$69,000 a week.

A MODERN SCHOOL

Other recent features of our class: Very often I read to the children such news as may interest them; in fact, I am asked by some of them to do so. For instance, concerning a woman who swam in six hours from the Battery to Coney Island; about a convention of French and German workmen in Berlin, called in order to protest against an impending war between their countries. The children enjoy these items as they would the most interesting fairy tales, and they are followed by all sorts of commentaries, serious discussion and intelligent as well as silly jokes.

Stories? The children tell more of them than I do.

I have put the school in connection with other similar schools in this country and Europe, and we now exchange illustrated postal cards and letters, to which the majority of the children are contributors.

I have succeeded in getting a good singer to come once a month and give us a concert of beautiful folk-songs. I shall try to interest others also.

As there were recently Christmas as well as Jewish national holidays, and as the children talk about them, I can not ignore those subjects; I

have to tell them all I know of their importance and their origin, not mentioning anything about religion, which I ignore as long as possible. By the way, I am not afraid to speak to them about Christ or Moses, whom I present as heroes, each in his own way, but never as divine beings. This is exactly how I understand them myself. In the same sense I can speak to them on anything, when the occasion arises, as I am perfectly frank and sincere with them.

This kind of education is not new; it is not my invention, nor is it Ferrer's invention.

The public school does not use such methods because they develop the character of the individual, while the public school tends to wipe out the character of the individual.

Is there no hope that changes will be made in the official school?

Yes; favorable changes are being made continuously, but always within the wrong principles of education.

Can a school with many classes and hundreds of children make excursions and generally follow the principles of rational education?

As a matter of fact, many large official schools in Germany are doing extensive work outside of the school, making excursions, etc. But, of course, individual attention to the needs of the child is impossible in a large class. Most of the teachers feel this, but they cannot help it.

How could the school authorities engage as many teachers as would be necessary in order to apply your method?

Everything could be done, if other unnecessary expenditures made with the people's money (army, navy, etc.) would be suppressed.

(To be continued.)

THE WAR OF GRAYS HARBOR.

A little while ago the boosters of Aberdeen held indignant meetings protesting against the employment of cheap foreign labor in the great lumber mills on Grays Harbor in Western Washington, saying, "We want Americans with families who will build homes amongst us that our city may build up and prosper." But the mill owners held sway and answered them, saying, "We are the chief industries here. Is it not enough that we prosper? The American citizen is no good as a worker. He tends to form his fellows into troublesome unions and wants high wages. He kicks against the bunk houses which we have provided. These Greeks and Slavonians and Finns and Croatians are all right. We can pay them as we choose and work them twelve hours. On their pride of native race we can speed them against each other."

And it was so. Came the foreign worker from the three hundred and sixty marks on the compass dial. By night they drank and fought in the saloons of the evil smells, each bellowing his patriot folk song. By day as the barons so wished they worked to excel, in the fool pride of race.

But came a pay day when Ole asked Pierre and Zwobrowski and Garibaldi to have a drink with him down at "The Greek's." The night brawls ceased. Arms upon shoulders in a new emotion and that their rough voices might better chord they tried singing the Marselleise together and found the hymn of revolt sounded even better.

The Socialist, in that day, reasoned, "What profits it that we propagate among the foreigners when they, forsooth, have no votes?" Then, too, the American Federation of Labor did not approve of the "foreigners," and so it came to pass that the Socialists were Well Liked in Aberdeen and many of them were Respectable.

Over the Chehalis came One Big Union. It spoke in harsh, un pitying tones in every tongue in Aberdeen. In massed, it solidified and the International was torn. Began the strike which is more than a strike and it can't be settled. It is a mutiny in industry. One may not look at it and think of less than rebellion. The mill barons now turned to the innocent, calf-eyed citizenry and said: "Behold! our foreign slaves have revolted against the good American conditions. Let us have the American working man with his family. He will scab the undesirable foreigner out of 'our fair city.'" The good citizen feebly reply: "Deal with your workers alone, but 'we' are with you for law and order." Likewise spake the Craft Unions and the barons again held sway.

It would surfeit the reader as it would sicken

the heart of the observer to recount the innumerable abuses. There are those who will know when I say it is Cripple Creek over again, and growing worse. Veterans of scores of industrial conflicts, like George Speed, say there are new features to tyranny.

April 1st the program was to jail all "leaders." George Speed, Joseph Biscay, W. A. Thorne and fifty-six others were taken and held incommunicado for thirty-five hours. At the same time the mayor issued a remarkable proclamation, suspending everything, forbidding assemblage, processions and public speakings, closing all halls by nailing them with strong timbers. Notwithstanding the "leaders" were in jail and their offices closed, the strikers got out their best issue of the Strike Bulletin and the I. W. W., within two hours, had out a proclamation, patterned after the mayor's, calling upon the citizens to aid them in "ridding the city of gun-men, and the dangerous and criminal element, imported by the mill-owners."

It was beyond their ken that things went on with the leaders in, and it was seen that jailing wouldn't work.

April 2nd was election day and quiet. The Socialists elected two aldermen and it was supposed that display of political strength would end the reign of terror, but not so. April 3rd was the blackest of all outrageous days in Aberdeen. The game was not to arrest, but to beat and kick and abuse, and, if resistance was offered, to kill.

The Socialists are now entirely with the strikers, and the display of unity does good to the heart of a revolutionist. They are not now allowed to hold meetings, but at their last meeting the Empire theatre was crowded to the utmost. They were addressed by Joe Jarvis, a State Organizer of the Socialist Party and an unquestioned "red." He aroused them to action in one of the most remarkable speeches ever delivered in the world. The meeting unanimously endorsed the strike and authorized by resolution a universal appeal for financial aid.

The Longshoremen, the Shingle Weavers, and the Industrial Workers of the World, comprising all the other laborers of whatever kind, are out. Only the strikers know how it will end. When it will end is in wisdom unrevealed. Just one thing about that can be said, and that is this: Arms, ammunition and "deputies" are costing the taxpayers of a little town One Thousand Dollars a day.

BRUCE ROGERS.

THE WORKERS' UNIVERSITY.

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